Castlemaine Naturalist

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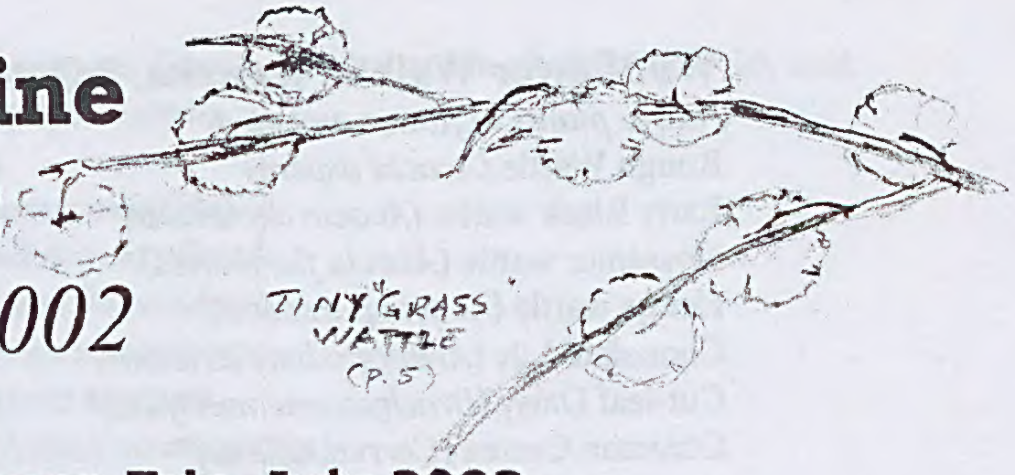

Newhaven Trip, July 2002.

A trip to Newhaven, the Birds Australia property in the NT, is proposed in July 22-26, 2003. Transport could be by road, or by air to Alice Springs, and then by hired 4WD. If interested in learning more about the trip, contact Margaret Badminton..

BOCA CHALLENGE BIRD COUNT

Sunday 1st December 2002

WANTED 10 - 12 observers (minimum number needed to cover the area thoroughly). You won't have to be an expert birdo - each group will have a qualified leader, but you must be able to count to more than 10 !!!!!

OBJECTIVE To count not only the species of birds, but the actual numbers within a 40 km radius of Castlemaine. Last year 25 teams from Vic., NSW, and Q'l'd, took part (298 people) in the count to provide a guide to numbers and distribution of our bird population.

Last year our group had 14 enthusiastic observers who divided into 3 teams, recording an excellent result of 125 species with a total of 3483 birds (give or take a couple).

MEET at the Octopus opposite Castle Motel in Duke St.

TIME 8.15 am for a 8.30 am start for a morning or all day trips.
All-dayers - bring snacks, lunch and drinks, etc.
Meet 12.45pm for afternoon only - bring afternoon tea.
Lunch break between the two half day trips - 12.15 to 1pm at the Octopus.

RETURN All groups to return to the Octopus by 5.30pm SHARP (this was actually achieved last year!) to finalise collation and completion of the survey.

PLEASE ADVISE US BY WED. NOV. 27 if you are able to take part so that we can be organised for the day.

Ken and Maureen Dredge 5470 6474

....and the advice from BOCA organiser, David Ap -Thomas is to HAVE FUN!

Wildflower Walk in Kaweka. 9 October, 2002

Native plants in flower included

Rough Wattle *(Acacia aspera)*
Early Black wattle *(Acacia decurrens)**
Gossamer wattle (*Acacia floribunda)**
Hedge wattle (*Acacia paradoxa*)
Chocolate Lily (*Arthropodium strictum*)
Cut-leaf Daisy (*Brachyscome multifida*)*
Common Correa (*Correa reflexa*)*
Blunt-leaf Bitter-pea (*Daviesia leptophylla*)
Gorse Bitter-pea (*Daviesia ulicifolia*)
Primrose Goodenia (*Goodenia blackiana*)
Downy Grevillea (*Grevillea alpina*)
Rosemary Grevillea (*Grevillea rosmarinifolia*)*
Austral Indigo (*Indigofera australis*)
Dusty Daisy-bush (*Olearia phlogopappa*)*
Cypress Daisy-bush (*Olearia teretifolia*)*
Fairy wax-flower (*Philotheca verrucosa*)
Rough Mint-bush (*Prostanthera denticulata*)
Matted Bush-pea (*Pultenaea pedunculata*)
White Marianth (*Rhytidosporum procumbens*)
Pink Bells (*Tetratheca ciliata*)
Twining Fringe-lilt (*Thysanotus patersonii*)

Kaweka is a combination of planted native garden and natural bush. Asterisks refer to non-local forms or species.

Margaret Panter.

Wildflower Walk at Walmer 16 October 2002.

We walked through a 50 acre block owned by Bron Bake and Kath Walker, in Sinclairs Lane. Formerly grazed by sheep and cut for firewood, the block has been regenerating for two years.

Highlights were the masses of Cut-leaf Daisy in flower, the Hairy Bursaria and the Loose-flower Bush-pea in flower (all uncommon in the Castlemaine District), and seeing three species of parrot-pea in flower. After trying unsuccessfully for years to tell the difference between Showy and Grey Parrot-pea, I was at last able (with Frances Cincotta's help) to clearly see the differences.

Grey's leaves were dull greyish ("like a Casuarina", someone commented), longer, narrower and with the tip bent back. The leaves also stuck out at a wide angle to the stem.

Showy's leaves were brighter green, tuberculate (= with tiny bumps) and almost parallel with the stem. These characteristics however, can vary, according to the Flora of Victoria. Showy's flowers are also bigger, mostly

paired, and in the leaf axils, whereas Grey's flowers are in clusters of 1-10, and either in the leaf axils or at the end of stems.

Plants in flower included
Cut-leaf daisy (*Brachyscome multifida*)
Hooded Caladenia (*Caladenia cucullata)*
Black-anther Flax-lily (*Dianella revoluta*)
Grey Parrot-pea (*Dillwynia cinerascens)*
Showy parrot-pea (*Dillwynia sericea)*
Tangled Guinea-flower (*Hibbertia exutiacies*)
Scaly Buttons (*Leptorhynchos squamatus)*
Grey Everlasting (*Ozothamnus obcordatus*)
Fairy Wax-flower (*Philotheca verrucosa*)
Common Rice-flower (*Pimelea humilis*)
Slender Rice-flower (*Pimelea linifolia*)
Showy Podolepis (*Podolepis jaceoides*)
Loose-flower Bush-pea (*Pultenaea laxiflora*)
Matted Bush-pea (*Pultenaea pedunculata*)
Purple-leaf Groundsel (*Senecio tenuiflorus*)
Annual Bluebell? (*Wahlenbergia gracilenta*)

Margaret Panter (leader)

Orchid Name Changes

Name	Common name	Old Name
Arachnorchis clavigera	Plain-lip Spider-orchid	Caladenia clavigera
Arachnorchis concolor	Crimson Spider-orchid	Caladenia concolor
Arachnorchis dilatata s.l.	Greencomb Spider-orchid	Caladenia dilatata
Arachnorchis magnifica	Magnificent Caladenia	Caladenia magnifica
Arachnorchis patersonii	Common Spider-orchid	Caladenia patersonii
Arachnorchisphaeoclavia	Brown-clubbed Spider-orchid	Caladenia phaeoclavia
Arachnorchis reticulata	Veined Spider-orchid	Caladenia reticulata
Arachnorchis rosella	Rosella Spider-orchid	Caladenia rosella
Arachnorchis tentaculata	Mantis Orchid	Caladenia dilatata
Calonema filamentosa	Daddy Long-legs	Caladenia filamentosa
Corunastylis ciliata	Fringed Midge-orchid	Genoplesium ciliatus
Corunastylis despectans	Sharp Midge-orchid	Genoplesium despectans
Corunastylis sp affin rufa	Dark Midge-orchid	Genoplesium sp aff rufa
Corunastylism archeri	Variable Midge-orchid	Genoplesium archeri
Corysanthes incurva	Slaty Helmet-orchid	Corybas incurva
Cyanicula caerulea	Blue Caladenia	Caladenia caerulea
Diuris chryseopsis	Golden Moths	Diuris pedunculata
Diuris orientis	Wallflower Orchid	D. longifolia
Leptoceras menziesii	Hare Orchid	Caladenia menziesii
Nemacianthus caudatus	Mayfly Orchid	Acianthus caudatus

Paracaleana minor	Small Duck Orchid	Caleana minor
Petalochilus carneus s.l.	Pink Fingers	Caladenia carnea
Petalochilus carneus s.s.	Pink Fingers	Caladenia carnea
Petalochilus deformis	Blue-beard Caladenia	Caladenia deformis
Petalochilus fuscatus	Dusky Fingers	Caladenia fuscata
Petalochilus ornatus	Ornate Pink Fingers	Calad. carnea v ornata
Petalochilus pusillus	Tiny Pink Fingers	Caladenia pusilla
Pterostylis affin revoluta	Large Autumn Greenhood	Pterostylis revoluta
Pterostylis melagramma	Tall Greenhood	Pterostylis longifolia
Pyrorchis nigricans	Red Beaks	Lyperanthus nigricans
Stegostyla cucullata	Hood Orchid	Caladenia cucullata
Stegostyla gracilis	Musky Hood	Caladenia angustata
Stegostyla praecox	Early Hood	Caladenia praecox
Thynniorchis huntianus	Elbow Orchid	Spiculaea huntiana

This list is extracted from the DNRE orchid list

Ern Perkins

Excursion to Mt. Alexander and the Great Dividing Trail

Oct. 12, 2002. Leader was Richard Piesse. Flowering plants recorded were:

Angular Pea (**Lathyrus angulatus)*

Erect Chickweed (**Moenchia erecta)*

Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*)

Late Black Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*)

Austral Bugle (*Ajuga australis*)

Pink Fingers (*Caladenia carnea*)

Hooded Caladenia (*Caladenia cucullata)*

Pink Purslane (*Calandrinia calyptrata*)

Tall Sundew (*Drosera peltata ssp auriculata*)

Twining Glycine (*Glycine clandestina*)

Tiny Star (*Hypoxis glabella* var *glabella*)

Yellow Star (*Hypoxis vaginata*)

Field Rush (*Luzula meridionalis*)

Hairy Stylewort (*Levenhookia dubia*)

Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis* sp)

Common Rice-flower (*Pimelea humilis*)

Slender Rice-flower (*Pimelea linifolia*)

Creamy Candles (*Stackhousia monogyna)*

Prickly Starwort (*Stellaria pungens*)

Common Early Nancy (*Wurmbea dioica*)

Long-leaf Violet (*Viola betonicifolia*)

Plants marked with * are introduced species. Hairy Stylewort is a new record for the Club for Mt. Alexander.

Geraldine Harris

Western Wildflowers.

I don't intend to give another step by step account of our journey to the West, but I have been asked so may times what the wildflowers were like this time, and "was it very dry?" Yes it is dry - even in the south-west where it is still green there has only been half the normal rainfall.

The plants that seem to be doing best are the dry country ones, and there was still a profusion of different peas (you think it's hard to remember names of Victorian peas? there's 8 or 10 more *genera* in WA that I became *aware* of!), Trigger Plants, Rainbows (Sundews to us), Banjines (i.e. Pimeleas) and daisies of all kinds.

We stayed with cousins in Cuballing near Narrogin and the Dryandra Forest where the Numbat study was done, so because of these farming people, who are careful with their environment, we learnt a lot about the area. Jill took sister Jenny and me to a paddock where the sheep have been excluded. There is a huge sloping granite rock where, in the moss and accumulated soil, there are hundreds of orchids, Schoenias, tiny white and yellow everlastings, blue Squills, masses of Stackhousia (it seems to love the granite - I have never seen it in such profusion here), Pink Petticoats (a *Utricularia* or Bladderwort) and so on. As we climbed on up to the barer area there were virtual hedges of very gnarled and twisted red Kunzea growing in rows in the cracks of the rock. There were dozens of lizards sunning themselves, but they quickly moved away and hid under slabs before we could get a good look at them.

We spent the next day out at Dryandra, and stopped on the way to look at the mass of plants at the side of the road at Yomaning, and there found what I felt, is the loveliest little wattle I have ever seen. About a 30cm high, it has golden ball flowers scattered along wiry stems with phyllodes like grass blades, and grows among tussock or small shrubs. I still am not sure what it was despite the fact I have borrowed books. It's been suggested that I contact the Herbarium in WA for their opinion. Here and Dryandra Forest, some 10km further on, were the only places I saw it.

We walked the Woylie Track in the Dryandra Forest and saw so many interesting, and, to me, new plants that I would recommend anyone going West to make sure they visit Dryandra Forest and follow one of the tracks from the Mill Dam. There's always the chance of seeing a Woylie, which have been re-introduced to the area, or a Numbat, just to add to the enjoyment. There is also accommodation at the old village, too, mostly during school holidays. It seems to be used by a lot of schools at other times, but costs are very reasonable.

Rita Mills

Observations

• From Shirley Parnaby: "Oct. 5. as I strolled around the Kalimna block (Vanstan Road area) where several ironbarks were in full bloom, I noticed a small parrot feeding on the lower branches of one tree beside the track along from the

Unknown Miners Grave. I stayed motionless as he exchanged quiet calls occasionally with others out of sight in trees across the track, and was able to identify it as a Swift Parrot. I assumed the others were part of a small flock, and moved off as stealthily as possible to avoid disturbing them

"In another area there was a positive plague of Red Wattlebirds in contest with a few Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters, also in ironbarks."

• During the survey done on Meins Lane at Yapeen a Pied Butcherbird was seen by Margaret Badminton, Lesley and Ern Perkins and Chris Morris. This was thought to be a first for the district but Stan Bruton was able to tell Margaret that he had seen one 28 years ago at the Castlmaine Golf Course and Hans van Gemert was surprised to find that the Pied Butcherbirds were considered so unusual, because they often saw them at their Taradale property!

• Margaret has also seen a Hooded Robin and heard Crescent Honeyeaters again at Vaughan Springs during a U3A walk. On another walk White-browed Woodswallows were seen at North Harcourt.

• Geraldine Harris has found two blue Sun Orchids on their block, as well as Shinglebacks and Echidnas. A Yellow Robin is nesting in *Banksia ericifolia* in their yard. They saw it when it was picked up in the headlights one evening.

• Ann van Gemert reports that there are at least six Yellow Robins on their property at the back of the Golf Course.

• A Wood Duck family was seen in the Botanical Gardens - duck, drake and "9 balls of fluff". A week later they had doubled in size, but only 8 were left. A pair of Crested Pigeons in Tomkies Road have raised two fledglings. George Broadway.

• Trish Addis reports that, like Parnabys, they have had a White-faced Heron investigate their small (fishless) pond at the back door. Also, some time ago, there was a request for observations of birds feeding on non-natives, and she reports that their Camellias have attracted New Holland Honeyeaters, Eastern Spinebills, thornbills and Blue Wrens.

• Richard Piesse has found a "gully full of *Baekea ramosissima*" in the hills 1.5kms behind their house on the Helge Track not far from Warburtons Bridge.

• Chris Morris has seen Painted Honeyeaters at Sedgewick.

FROM THE BUSINESS MEETING

• The committee has decided to go ahead with **the purchase of a public address system**. Our thanks to Hans van Gemert for the thorough investigation he has made into the costs and possibilities.

• A **Seed Collection Workshop** is to be held on Thur. 28 Nov. and Thur 12 Dec. '02 from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm, Ray Bradfield Rooms and a local field trip (transport provided). **The Club has agreed to sponsor 5 people** to attend at $10 per head. This will cover lunch, transport and notes for the day

. Each workshop is the same, so you will only need to attend one. Please let Hans van Gemert know soon if you are interested, as *places are limited and bookings essential.*

• **Parks Victoria** has sent an invitation to attend an **Information Sharing night** to assist Allom Lovell and associates in the development of a Heritage Action Plan for **Vaughan Mineral Springs** at the Guildford Public Hall, Thurs, **Nov. 7,** from 7 - 10 pm.

• The Shire Councils of Macedon Ranges, Mount Alexander and Mitchell have issued a **booklet of Central Victorian Weeds**. Some will be available at the November meeting.

• **Castlemaine Historical Society** has **invited** the Committee and Members of **CFNC** to a **social evening** on Monday Feb. 3, 2003 at 6pm in the grounds of the former Court House in Goldsmith Crescent for a BYO picnic tea. Tea and Coffee provided. We have been asked also that a representative of the club will give a short talk on our group and what we hope to achieve in the coming year.

• Ballarat Environment Network sent an invitation to "Weaving the Web", a biodiversity conference and dinner over the weekend Sat. Nov. 30, Sun. Dec. 1 2002. Further information and registration available at the Nov. meeting.

• The combined **U3A/FNC Bird Outings** have not attracted U3A members, and it was decided not to continue next year.

• During the **Mein's Lane, Yapeen/Muckleford Road survey** another twenty *Pimelea spinescens* plants were found.

Disclaimer - The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Club.

Reminder - Articles, reports and observations for the CN can be left with Noellene at Tonks Bros., Barker St. if that is more convenient for you.

2002 Committee - E Perkins (President) ph 5472 3124, C Morris (VP and Grievance Officer), G Broadway (Secretary) ph 5472 2513, H van Gemert (Treasurer), R Mills (Newsletter Ed & Public Officer), M Badminton, G Harris, B Maund, M Oliver and R Piesse.

Subscriptions for 2002 -

Ordinary membership: Single $22, Family $30
Pensioner or student: Single $19, Family $24
Supporting $31.
The subscription includes postage of the *Castlemaine Naturalist.*

Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club, PO Box 324, Castlemaine.
Incorporation #A0003010B

Castlemaine Naturalist September 2002 Program

General meetings are held in the Uniting Church (UCA) hall at 8.00 pm on the second Friday of each month, except January. **Excursions** leave promptly at the times stated, usually on the Saturday after the general meeting. There are NO excursions on total fire ban days.

Also note that outdoor excursions are likely to be cancelled in extreme weather conditions.

Business meetings are held at 27 Doveton Street on the 4th Thursday of each month, except December, at 7.30 pm. All members are invited to attend.

Visitors are welcome at club meetings and excursions.

Thurs. Nov. 7. *Vaughan Mineral Springs Community Information Night.* See p.7.

Fri. Nov. 8. ***Lichens with Sharon Ford.*** UCA hall at 8.00 pm.

Sat Nov. 9. ***Highway Cleanup.*** Meet near Tate's Carriage Works, at the Willy Milly Road/Pyrenees Highway corner at 8.30 am.

Sat Nov. 9. ***Bullarto Lichens.*** Leave Chirp at 1.30 sharp. Take hand lens or magnifying glass if you have one. Leaders are Chris Morris, and Sharon Ford.

Thurs. Nov. 28. ***U3A/CFNC bird watching at Vaughan Springs.*** Meet at the Octopus, opposite the Castle Motel, Duke St, at 9.30. Leader:Margaret Badminton. This is the last combined excursion.

Thurs. 28 Nov. *Seed Collection Workshop.* See p. 6.

Thurs. Nov. 28. ***Business Meeting.*** 7.30 pm at 27 Doveton St. All members are invited.

Sat.Nov. 30 - Sun. Dec. 1 *Weaving the Web*, Ballarat. Details see pp. 6,7.

Sun Dec. 1. *BOCA Bird Challenge.* See p.1.

Tues. Dec. 10. ***Bridal Creeper - integrated control techniques.*** A seminar by Dr Raelene Kwong, leader Biological Services Team, Keith Turnbull Institute. Presented by the Friends of the Box Ironbark Forest and Mt. Alexander Shire Council. Ray Bradfield Rooms at 7.30 pm.

Fri. Dec. 13. ***Members and Visitors Night.*** Members (and visitors) are asked to contribute a small item. Bring a plate of supper.

Sat Dec. 14. *McKay Reservoir,* subject to confirmation. This will be the annual breakup picnic tea outing.

Mon. Feb. 3 2003. *Historical Society Social Evening.* Members are invited. See p. 7

Fri. Feb. 14. *Annual Meeting.*